

HEALTH

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REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1950

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Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

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Lunesdale Rural District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1950, on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District.

This Report includes that of your Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, so far as their activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

The destruction of records by the fire in January 1946, is still causing serious inconvenience to the Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. WARBURTON, Certif. R.S.I., M.I.S.A.

1. General Statistics of the Area:

AREA of the District (Acres)	76.099
POPULATION (Census, 1931)	6,575
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate, 1950)	7,505
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1950)	2,119
RATEABLE VALUE	£45,629
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£179 : 6 : 5

The chief industries of the inhabitants of the District are:—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	115	57	58
(Illegitimate)	2	2	—
TOTAL	117	59	58

Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated Crude: 15.6
population, mid-1950 Adjusted: 17.3

Still Births 5 3 2

Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated popu-
lation, mid-1950 (live and still) 41

Deaths 85 41 44

Death-Rate per 1,000 Crude: 11.3
estimated population Adujsted: 10.5

Maternal Mortality:—

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion Nil

Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 17

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live birth 17

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Neo-natal Mortality:—

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age 2

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 17

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Cancer	6	3	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	11	14
Heart Disease	14	16	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2	4
Gastric Ulcer	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Suicide	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes, Accidents, etc.	3	1	4
All Other Causes	2	5	7

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
1945-49	17.7	11.5	0.09	1.33	Nil	Nil	30
1949	16.7	8.5	Nil	1.21	Nil	Nil	40
1950	15.6	11.3	0.40	—	Nil	Nil	17
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on 5 yrs. average:—							
1945-49	—2.1	—0.2	+0.31	—	Nil	Nil	—13
Prev. Year	—1.1	+2.8	+0.40	—	Nil	Nil	—23

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eleven New cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:—Nine being Pulmonary, comprising five males, and four females; whilst two were non-Pulmonary, one being male and the other female.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	1	1	2	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1949.

Diseases	Under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	& Over	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	7	—	5	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Whooping Cough	5	11	—	16	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	47
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fev.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia- Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED—78.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the present system, children can be immunised either by their own family doctor or at clinics conducted by the Divisional Medical Officer of the local Health Division, and his staff.

Records of immunisation are completed by the General Practitioner in respect of children whom he has immunised; and forwarded to the Divisional Health Office.

Records of immunisation carried out at clinics are completed by the Divisional Medical Officer's staff.

The following table shows the number of children immunised in Lunesdale Rural District up to December 31st, 1950.

I should point out that up to July, 1948, many parents had their children immunised by their own private Practitioner, and of this number, we have no accurate records.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950.

Age at 31st DEC. 1950 i.e. born in Year	0-1 1950	1-2 1949	2-3 1948	3-4 1947	4-5 1946	5-9 1941-45	10-14 1936-40	Total under 15
Number Immunised	30	68	44	70	60	281	324	877
Estimated Mid-Year Child Population 1950	Children under 5 years. 618			Children 5-14 years 952		Children under 15 years 1,570		
Percentage of Child population in age groups in an immunised state	44.0			63.6		55.9		

WATER SUPPLY.

Taken as a whole, the District is reasonably well served from the Council's mains, from which a good supply of water is offered to most properties, the only notable exceptions being the high level farms in the Southern portion of the Area.

The chief sources of supply are obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct, which passes through the District, four main connections and one subsidiary being taken off the Aqueduct at points to serve the various schemes in the following Parishes, viz.:—

- (1) Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington, and Tatham, being on a Regional Scheme.
- (2) Borwick—a separate scheme which later passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that Area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

The subsidiary connection serves a part of the Parish of Caton in times of emergency.

The Council have two schemes under their own direct management, one of these being for the Parishes of Hornby and Wray, which is known as the Hornby Castle Supply; and the other serves a part of the Parish of Caton.

The Hornby Castle Supply, formerly a private scheme, was taken over in 1939, when the Castle Estate was sold. The water is from an intake on the River Roeburn, passes through settling tanks and filters, and is chlorinated prior to storage. A Carbon Filter was installed in mid-1948 for the purpose of De-chlorinating the water as it leaves the works, and this filter has been found to be very efficient.

The Caton scheme was installed as a private supply in 1885, and was purchased from the Caton Water Company by the Council, some 20 years later, in 1905. The Headworks comprise two Intakes from a stream known as Traitor's Gill, and one from Tarn Brook. The water then passes through a rough gravel filter, and enters an open Reservoir of approximately 1,000,000 gallons capacity. After leaving this Reservoir, the water is chlorinated by means of a Hypo-Chlorinator.

A portion of the Parish of Quernmore is served from the Lancaster City Mains, this water being taken untreated; whilst treated water from the City Supply also serves a small part of the Parish of Halton.

There were no major extensions to the Council's mains during the year, although certain lengths of old, defective pipes, have been relaid, especially in the Parish of Caton.

In the table set out below is given an estimate of the supplies to property in the individual Parishes, together with the population so served.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:—

Parish.	From Public Mains.		Private Supplies.	
	Direct to Houses.	Population Served.	No. of Houses.	Population Served.
Arkholme	47	144	26	91
Borwick	33	117	15	56
Burrow	39	137	13	42
Cantsfield	8	27	14	59
Caton	401	1329	45	137
Claughton	Nil	Nil	42	145
Gressingham	36	147	17	56
Halton	326	1153	10	35
Hornby	103	328	13	47
Ireby	16	59	5	18
Nether Kellet	81	227	Nil	Nil
Over Kellet	79	215	45	145
Leck	35	107	19	62
Melling	54	177	6	24
Quernmore	56	179	117	477
Roeburndale	Nil	Nil	19	68
Tatham	41	134	71	377
Tunstall	25	83	3	13
Wennington	35	122	Nil	Nil
Whittington	67	237	23	63
Wray	109	362	25	316
Total Whole District	1591	5274	528	2231

The Agricultural Committee's Grant Scheme for the provision of piped supplies to farm premises in the Area, has again been taken advantage of by a number of owners, but still more use should be made of this scheme, where practicable.

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory Service for the Bacteriological Examination of water supplies, during the year. The results of analyses of samples submitted, are grouped below:—

Number of samples of raw water submitted	42
Number found to be Satisfactory	22
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	20
Number of samples of treated water submitted	37
Number found to be Satisfactory	28
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	9

Regarding the nine samples of treated water which were found to be unsatisfactory, immediate steps were taken to ascertain the reason for the adverse reports, and on re-sampling, it was found that, by increasing the dosage through the Chlorination Plant, satisfactory results had been obtained.

Samples requiring Chemical Analysis are forwarded to the County Analyst, County Laboratory, Preston, details of samples examined during the year are given below:—

Number of samples of raw water submitted	4
Number found to be Satisfactory	4
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	Nil
Number of samples of treated water submitted	2
Number found to be Satisfactory	2
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	Nil

SEWERAGE.

There are no modern or up-to-date sewerage treatment works in any of the villages in the Council's Area. In the majority of these villages, however, treatment is carried out by means of small, private tanks, but one cannot conscientiously say, that these are efficient or adequate in any degree.

A summary of the conditions in the various parts of the District, is again set out below, for the information of the Council:—

Arkholme.—There are no sewers or treatment works provided, but houses where water closets are installed, have septic tanks. Sink waste drainage is dealt with in some cases by the surface water drains.

Borwick.—No treatment works or sewers here, but several properties are connected to private septic tanks.

Burrow.—Similar conditions as mentioned above.

Cantsfield.—The properties provided with water closets have their own septic tanks.

Caton.—The majority of the property in this village is connected to the old sewage systems. These consist of tanks situated as follows:—Three near Artlebeck in the fields, each dealing with a part of the village; and one near the Low Mill, taking sewage from the western portion of the village. All four tanks are seriously overloaded, and totally inadequate for present day use.

Brookhouse.—Is sewered, and the sewage is treated in a small tank, and carried forward for final treatment by land irrigation. The works are inadequate and seriously overloaded.

Claughton.—No sewers provided. Most premises use privy middens, and those properties provided with water closets have septic tanks.

Gressingham.—No sewers provided. Most houses are drained to the stream, either through tanks, or direct.

Halton.—Most of the village is sewered, but no treatment of the sewage takes place before discharge direct into the river, causing pollution at two points which have been a source of complaint.

Hornby.—Although sewers and three tanks are provided to deal with the sewage from the village, these are seriously overloaded, and the effluent discharged into the river is unsatisfactory.

Farleton.—Again no sewers or treatment provided. One or two premises are provided with tanks.

Ireby.—No sewers provided, and sink waste drainage from most of the properties is discharged into the stream.

Nether Kellet.—No treatment works are provided to deal with the sewage from the village, but a number of houses are connected direct to a surface water sewer passing through the village. This drain discharges into a stream on the village outskirts, and complaints have again been received from tenants and owners during the year, as to the pollution caused.

Over Kellet.—Similar conditions prevails as mentioned above for Nether Kellet, sewerage and sink waste drainage being discharged into two streams in the village, and several complaints have been received with regard to the pollution of the streams, during the year.

Leck and Cowan Bridge.—No sewers or treatment works provided; houses with water closets are provided with tanks.

Melling with Wrayton.—Again no sewers; nearly all properties have water closets, and septic tanks are installed.

Quernmore.—The scattered nature of this Parish does not permit the easy provision of a sewage scheme, except for the group of property around the Temperance Hotel, and the new estate at Bulk. The houses on this latter estate are connected to septic tanks, and very little trouble is experienced with the working of these.

Roeburndale.—Another scattered Parish, chiefly consisting of farm properties where a sewage scheme could not be very well provided.

Tatham.—This is also a wide Parish, but several premises have septic tanks installed.

Tunstall.—No sewers or sewage disposal plant available, properties with water closets are served by small tanks.

Wennington.—No proper sewers or treatment works provided, although several houses are connected to private tanks.

Whittington.—Property in one portion of the village is connected to an old surface drain which passes through two tanks at the northern end of the village. These are merely cesspools and are inadequate for present day use. The rest of the property where water closets are installed are served by tanks.

Wray—Sewers are provided and sewage is treated in tanks at either end of the village. These tanks are too small for the amount of sewage passing through them, and the effluent is the source of complaints from local residents and the Rivers Board.

Schemes for the efficient treatment of sewage in the various parts of the District have been prepared, and were submitted to the Ministry some considerable time ago, and it must be agreed that all the schemes should be put in hand as early as possible, and the provision of these amenities is urgently required from a Public Health point of view.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Pail Closets:—	41	No. of Ashbins:—	2,318
No. of Middens:—	825	No. of Closets attached:—	961
No. of Houses on Water		No. of Fresh Water	
Carriages System:—	1,216	Closets:—	1,487

Conversions during 1950:—

No. of privy closets to water closets:—	8
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable ashbins:—	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council employ five workmen, who operate two vehicles on this work, refuse being collected once every fortnight from a major portion of the District. The service has worked quite satisfactorily during the year under review, and records, which have been kept for a complete year for the first time in 1950, show that refuse was collected from some 36,248 Ashbins, and 1,902 Ashpits during the year, the vehicles engaged on the work covering some 12,192 miles during the same period.

HOUSING.

The Council, since the end of hostilities in 1945, have erected houses in almost every Parish in the District. During the year under review, 41 dwellings were completed by the Council, and 8 by private individuals. These numbers were slightly less than in previous years, but this was due to the Ministry of Health's cut in the Housing Programme, and to a certain extent, the shortage of labour and materials. At the end of the year, there were 39 houses in course of construction on the various Council Housing Sites in the Area.

Generally, housing conditions in the District are fairly satisfactory, but some old property is not of good standard, whilst there are a few cases of overcrowding to be dealt with. One house was found to be overcrowded within the meaning of the Act during the year, concerning 2 families, and 5 people.

Three houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders during the year; whilst two houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936; undertakings being accepted by the Council from the owners, in respect of these latter houses.

Seven applications for Grant Aid for Improvements to premises, under the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year, involving nine houses. At the end of the year, none of these schemes had been finally approved by the Ministry, and, therefore, no works of repair or improvement were carried out at any of the properties concerned.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year	80
No. of visits made for the purpose	124
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	80
No. of inspections made for the purpose	120
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit	60
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action	49

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

All shops are inspected at least twice a year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, and no action has been necessary under these Acts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Inspection of meat is still carried out by the Ministry of Food's staff employed at the centralised slaughterhouse, at Lancaster Abattoirs.

All Food shops and premises where food is prepared are regularly visited, and the co-operation of shopkeepers in notifying suspected foodstuffs is appreciated.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Legislation controlling the supervision of Milk Production, other than the inspection of dairies, passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in October, 1949. Local Authorities are now only concerned with the conditions affecting the retail side of milk production.

With a view to ascertaining the standard of milk sold to consumers in the Area, 92 samples of milk, from various producers in the District, were submitted to the Bacteriologist for his examina-

tion and report. The Laboratory is attached to the Lancaster Royal Infirmary, and samples are delivered immediately on collection. The Bacteriologist's report on the above samples shows that 85 were satisfactory, and the remaining seven were adversely reported upon. In view of the remarks on the analysis of the latter samples, the Agricultural Committee were advised as to the results, and it is understood that the Milk Advisory Officer for the District, visited the farms concerned, in an endeavour to assist the farmer to improve his methods of production.

All the above samples were also examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and none were proved positive in this respect. It appears from the results of the examinations, that Milk Production in the Area is of a reasonably high standard.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on the 31st March, 1950, increased the responsibility of Local Authorities, with regard to Rodent Control.

The Council has two trained operatives, who are transferred from other duties as and when required, to carry out work of baiting and poisoning. Sewers in the Area are baited and poisoned in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendations at least twice each year, and the refuse tips under the Council's control are regularly treated as suggested by the Ministry. Complaints from private individuals are investigated, and any necessary action taken to eliminate rodents. Many farmers in the District have contracts with the Agricultural Executive Committee for the servicing of their premises, and the Council co-operates with the Committee on this work.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for Bacteriological Examination and Report, are sent to the Pathological Department at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary.

Other bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance services for the Area, are controlled by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office at 4/5, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

Nursing Services.

The District Nursing and Midwifery Services for the District are provided by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office, at Lancaster.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Visits have been made on 57 occasions to premises during the year. Four Notices have been issued, all relating to defective, unsuitable, or inadequate sanitary accommodation.

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